

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 27, 1981
and
Tuesday, April 28, 1981

J. C. Gilbert
Chairman

Hilton Inn
Kenner, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

April 27 & 28, 1981

AGENDA

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2. Setting of the 1981 spring shrimp season.	2
3. Request by T. L. James and Company for renewal of permit to pump fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana.	3
4. Report on possible use of warning citations for minor violations of the law or department regulations.	4
5. Consider remainder of recommendations for Commission Meetings.	4
6. Request public input and comments on the increase in size of the Boeuf Wildlife Management Area and the addition of Sicily Island Hills Area which will be incorporated into the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Federal Aid Wildlife Management Area Program.	4
7. Sale of .90 acre of land - Catahoula Parish, Louisiana.	4
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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

held at

Kenner, Louisiana

April 27, 1981 and
April 28, 1981

Chairman J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, presiding.

Members present:

Members absent:

Mr. J. C. Gilbert, Chairman
Mr. Charles A. Riggs, Vice Chairman
Mr. James C. Farrelly, Member
Mr. George N. Gray, Member
Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, Member
Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron

Mr. Wayne C. Ducote

Also present: Mr. Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary

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Upon motion of Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, the Commission dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the March 23 and 24, 1981, Commission Meeting and moved their adoption.

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the Commission go into a committee of the whole.

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the committee of the whole rise and report progress.

Chairman Gilbert introduced the new Commission Member, Mr. George N. Gray of Shreveport, Louisiana. He said Mr. Gray is a well known sportsman, conservationist and civic leader in Shreveport.

Dr. Ted Ford, Assistant Secretary, Office of Coastal and Marine Resources, gave a presentation and showed graphs and charts illustrating the growth rate of shrimp and also the good environment which contributed to the rapid rate of growth.

Dr. Ford stated that the biological studies indicate an opening date of May 18 for the brown shrimp season on a coastwide basis for a minimum of 50 days or until such time as continued fishing of brown shrimp in inside waters impacted the white shrimp crop at which time the Secretary would be authorized to close the brown shrimp season.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that based on Dr. Ford's presentation and based on the recommendations of the members of the shrimping industry that the brown shrimp season be opened on May 18 at 6:00 A.M. and that Zones 1, 2 and 3 (all zones) be opened at the same time. There will be a minimum of 50 days and it would be up to the Secretary based on information provided by the biologists to close the brown shrimp season when it is beginning to impact on the white shrimp season.

Dr. Ford presented information concerning white shrimp in Zone 3, chiefly Calcasieu Lake. He recommended a special white shrimp two-day season for May 4 and 5 in Zone 3 to open at 12:01 AM on May 4 and close at 11:59 PM on May 5. Zone 3 extends from Freshwater Bayou Navigational Canal to the Louisiana-Texas state line at Sabine River. During this special season it is limited to 1½ inch stretched mesh. In Calcasieu Lake, shrimp trawling will be permitted during daylight hours only.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, for a special white shrimp season in Zone 3 for two days commencing at 12:01 A.M. on May 4th and ending at 11:59 P.M. on May 5th. One and one-half inch stretched mesh is to be used and in Calcasieu Lake, trawling will be permitted during daylight hours only.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has reviewed the requests of the fishermen, industry and sportsmen, as well as the biological predictions and recommendations of the biologists of the Seafood Division, and

WHEREAS, this consensus supports the view that this year the brown shrimp have the same pattern of growth all along the coastline in inside waters, and

WHEREAS, the zone concept for Louisiana will not be used for the brown shrimp season this year, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the brown shrimp season will open coastwide on May 18, 1981, at 6:00 A.M. for a minimum of fifty days, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a special two-day white shrimp season beginning 12:01 A.M., May 4 and will close 11:59 P.M., May 5, in Zone 3 which is that area of the Louisiana coast from the western shore of Vermillion Bay and down through Freshwater Bayou to the Louisiana-Texas state line.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized to extend and to close the brown shrimp season after the 50-day minimum period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the season be either extended or closed depending upon available technical data concerning the presence or absence of small white shrimp.

Mr. Ray Montet, Enforcement Chief, stressed that all shrimping laws would be vigorously enforced during the shrimping seasons. Enforcement personnel in the coastal zone will be doubled during this time. The new mesh size is 5/8 inch square or 1-1/4 inch stretched. The mesh size was changed by the Legislature last year for the spring brown shrimp season only.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to T. L. James and Company, Inc., to pump fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T. L. James and Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana, for a period of

one year from April 29, 1981, to April 29, 1982, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

Mr. Jesse Knowles said he had requested a couple of months ago that Col. Ray Montet make a survey of several states concerning warning citations for minor violations. Col. Montet distributed a report which indicated that about half of the states questioned did issue the warning citations. Mr. Knowles felt that the decision should be left up to the Secretary as to whether or not warning citations would be issued for minor violations.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, that Item No. 5 on the agenda (remainder of recommendations for Commission Meetings as proposed by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote) be indefinitely postponed for no future discussion. A roll call vote was called and Messrs. Riggs and Orgeron voted "yes" and Messrs. Farrelly, Gray and Knowles voted "no." The motion failed.

Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Ducote's recommendations will be brought up at the May meeting.

Mr. Joe Herring said the Department recently purchased the Sicily Island Hills tract and the addition of approximately 18,000 acres to the Boeuf Wildlife Management Area. Since federal funds will be used to operate these wildlife management areas, it is necessary that these additions be advertised to the general public for their comments. There was no response to the call for comments from the audience.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the Commission request the Division of Administration to sell .90 acre in Catahoula Parish described as Lots 36, 37 and 38 of the Rabb Lakefront property, Township 5 North, Range 7 East, which was acquired by the Department in June 1968 for development of a boat launch which was not constructed due to lack of funds for this purpose.

Motion was made by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that travel expenses be authorized for Commission Member, Donald F. Wille, for meetings he attended in New Orleans and vicinity during the period March 25 through 27, 1981, regarding an experimental mullet permit.

Mr. Charles A. Riggs suggested that Ducks Unlimited be contacted to find out whether or not they would support the issuance of a duck stamp. He stated that the funds from the sale of duck stamps could be used for boat ramps throughout the state and could be used to improve duck habitat in the state.

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles asked Mr. Riggs why the Commission should go to Ducks Unlimited because in order to have the program approved, it would have to go before the State Legislature because this would amount to putting a tax on the hunters of this state.

Mr. Riggs pointed out that Ducks Unlimited is a state-wide organization with a lot of influence in the State Legislature and if they did not approve of a duck stamp, he did not think a bill on this would pass.

Chairman Gilbert suggested to Mr. Riggs that he contact Ducks Unlimited and discuss the duck stamp with them.

Mr. John D. Newsom announced that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have a public hearing on May 28, at 7:00 P.M., on the LSU Campus in the Union Building, to hear comments from the public regarding delisting the alligator in the entire state of Louisiana.

Mr. Newsom said they will come back to the Commission in June with a management plan for the entire state of Louisiana as far as the alligator is concerned.

Chairman Gilbert announced the May Meeting will be in Alexandria at the Ramada Inn on May 25 and 26, 1981. On Monday night, May 25, 7:00 P.M., Ramada Inn, the last public hearing on hunting seasons and bag limits would be held.

Chairman Gilbert announced that the June Meeting would be held in New Orleans on June 22 and 23, 1981.

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles that the meeting be adjourned.

Jesse J. Guidry
Secretary

J. C. Gilbert
Chairman